

A
L E T T E R

TO A

MEMBER of the Lower House of Assembly

OF THE

Colony of CONNECTICUT :

SHEWING,

That the Taxes of YALE-COLLEGE, are
stated higher than necessary to defray the annual
Expences of that School ; by which a very con-
siderable Addition is made to the College Trea-
sury annually. With some general Observations
on the Laws and Government of that Society.

BY A LOVER OF TRUTH, AND HIS COUNTRY.

MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PREVALEBIT.

NEW - H A V E N ;

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A
LETTER, &c.

BPJCB

S I R,

MY particular Acquaintance with your Character, and Assurance of the Justness of your Notions of Government, and of the vast Importance of giving Youth, who are designed for publick Employments, a good Education, and a virtuous, and liberal Turn, and Habit of Mind, equally abhorrent of arbitrary Principles of Government, and slavish Subjection; and of your Love of Equity, and generous Zeal for Liberty, and just Abhorrence of every Species of Tyranny, both civil, and ecclesiastical; determine me to address the following Letter to you. In which, I am going to lay before you, such a Train of Facts, relating to the arbitrary,

arbitrary, and oppressive Exactions that are made on the Students at *Yale-College*, and the dangerous Methods of the Government of that School, as will no Doubt, greatly surprise you, and fill you with a generous Concern and Resentment; as the Discovery of them did me.

I remember you once told me, that the President assured the General Assembly, at the Time that they first with-held the Annuity of £. 100 *Lawful Money*; that the then Officers of the College could not be supported, if it was with-held, without laying higher Taxes on the Students, for Tuition, &c. We all know, that notwithstanding the College was represented as being so poor; the Corporation immediately proceeded to introduce a Chaplain, under the Name of a Professor (whom they have since converted into a College Pastor) and settled upon him a Salary of £. 100 Lawful Money, per Annum, if I am not misinformed.--- This surprising Contrast of Words, and Actions, together with the loud Complaints of the Fathers of the Scholars, of the exorbitant Charges of their Son's Education, and their heavy Fines; raised my Curiosity to examine the College Funds, and to enquire into the Taxes on the Students. And the Scholar's frequent Complaints of their being subjected to an arbitrary Government, and their late Insurrections; induced me, a little to examine the Laws of that Society, and the Method and Genius of its Government.

The Result of these Enquiries, and Examinations, I now lay before you.---And begin with an Account of the Expences of the College, and the Monies raised on the Scholars, for three Years past, Which stands thus,

Dr. YALE-COLLEGE,-----

To Salary, and other contingent Expences, from September 1755, to September 1758. viz.

To Mr. President's Salary for three Years, at £. 100 Sterling per Annum (exclusive of other Perquisites) which in Lawful Money is £. 133 6 8 per Annum, makes,	£. 400	00	00
To Salary of three Tutors, three Years,	351	7	4
To the Scholar of the House, and Monitors, the same Term,	5	17	4

(The above are all the stated annual Salaries of the College, except Mr. Dagget's Salary, which is said not to be paid out of Monies collected from the Scholars.)

* To the contingent Charges of the College, during the same Term, 100 00 00

Total Expence of the College for three Years, £. 857 4 8

* Contingent Charges of the College, during the above Term, are such as these, viz. To the Fellows for Travel to Corporation Meetings, Joiners and Masons Bills, Expences in taking Care of the College Lands, Expences on the Pump, and Well, Candles for the College-Hall; the Amount of all these Expences, I suppose, is really but little more than £. 80, but I have fixed it, in the above Account, at £. 100, of which Sum, I am certain they fall short.

Contra

Contra - - - - - Cr.

By Monies raised on the Students, from September 1755, to September 1758, as follows, viz.

By Tuition Money, - - -	£. 878	5	4
By Study Rent, - - -	72	16	6
By Cellar Rent, - - -	37	13	8
By Money paid for contingent Charges, - - -	134	9	5
By Money paid as Fines, - - -	172	16	1

£. 1296 1 *

You will see at first View, that the single Article of *Tuition Money*, in the fore-mentioned Term, over balances the whole Charge of the College, during that Time, for President's, Tutor's, Scholar of the House, and Monitor's Salaries, and all the contingent Charges of the College, the Sum of £. 21. 0. 8. So that there is £. 21. 0. 8, *Tuition Money* clear, with all the Study and Cellar Rent, contingent Charges, and Money raised by Fines, *neat Profit*, made to the College Treasury, by Taxes on the Students, during the aforesaid Years; all which, make the Sum of £. 438. 16. 4. Lawful Money. Thus the Students have for three Years past, paid the whole Salaries of the President, Tutors, Monitors and Scholar of the House, and all other contingent Charges; without receiving any Aid from the Rents of the *College Lands*, which were generously given, no Doubt, with a View to lessen the Charge of their Parents, in their Education; and besides all this, have been compelled to pay in, a Balance, in Favour

* You will doubtless be surpris'd at this State of the Accounts, and be ready to suspect it is not just; but I do assure you, I obtained it from a late Student, on whose Knowledge and Veracity I can entirely rely. I am so fully assur'd of their Truth, that I will risque my Reputation on the Justness of them.

your of the College Treasury, the Sum of £.438. 16. 4. Which, the Managers of the Revenue, are at Liberty to appropriate to any Use of that Society, as seems good to them.

When you saw in the foregoing Account £.878. 5. 4, charged on the Scholars for their Tuition, during the Space of three Years; you doubtless tho't their Tuition actually cost them so much: As doubtless their Parents have always believed, that what was charged, from Time to Time, in the *Quarter Bills*, for their Son's Tuition, was, *all of it*, actually expended in paying the Salaries of their Instructors; * but how must it surprise you to find, that the Monies charged under this Head, have served, not only to pay off the full Salary of the President, and all the Tutors; but also to pay the Monitor, and Scholar of the House, and *all* the contingent Charges, and to leave besides, the Sum of £. 21. 0. 8, in the Treasury? This Article of Charge for Tuition, is manifestly a *false*, and *unjust* Charge. For it charges, in three Years £. 126. 18. 0, for Tuition, more than their Instructors ever received for that Service.--- And the Money charged on the Scholars, for contingent Charges of the College, which in these three Years, amounts to £. 134. 9. 5, seems to be entirely a needless Burden. For the surplus *Tuition* Money, is much more than enough to answer them. But if you appropriate this Article to defray the contingent Charges, and leave the whole surplus of the

* 'Tis surely in vain, that the Fellows have ordered Quarterly Accounts of the Scholars Taxes to the College, to be sent to their Parents, every Article of Charge being drawn up under its proper Head; that they may have the Satisfaction of knowing what they pay their Money for: If after all, they are allowed to be taxed for any given Article, for Tuition, for Instance, more than that Article amounts to; and the Overplus is secretly applied to Uses, entirely unknown to them.

the *Tuition* Money in the Treasury ; yet it overbalances what has been laid out, during this Time for these Charges, £. 34. 9. 5, allowing the contingent Expences to be £. 100, which I am well assured is more than the Truth of their Accounts.

The whole Study, and Cellar Rent, for three Years past, appear to have been repositied in the Treasury ; besides the Money raised by Fines : Of which I shall have Occasion to speak particularly, presently.

As the Balance of the above Account, in Favour of the College Treasury, is £. 438. 16. 4. You will perhaps ask, Whether the College has been actually enriched so much by the Students, in the last three Years ? To which I answer, *No.* And I can't tell you exactly, how much the *College Treasury* has been enriched in this Time ; because I don't know what the full Rents of the College Lands, during said Term, amount to.---We have been often told, that Mr. *Dagget's* Salary (which I have been told, is £. 100 L. M.) is not paid by the Students, but out of the Rents of the College Lands, Col. *Livingstone's*, *Clark's*, and other Legacies ; which perhaps, may amount to that Sum. But I am inclined to think, these Incomes are not quite so much ; as a considerable Part of the College Lands are not yet under Lease. And by Accident, I have learned (notwithstanding it has been confidently averred, that the Students do not contribute to Mr. *Dagget's* Support) that in the Year 1756, £. 61. 6. 8, was paid out of the Money collected from the Scholars, to Mr. *Dagget*, for *Expences of his Sickness, removing his Family, and Part of his Salary* ; and that A.D. 1757, £. 26. 13. 4, was paid him out of the Money raised on the Students, *as Part of his Salary*. I don't find that the Scholars paid any Thing for his Doctors, or Nurses that Year. Nor do I know that any of
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the Money that was raised on the Students last Year, was applied to his Use.

If you deduct these several Sums, thus appropriated to special Uses, all which amount to £ 88 L. M. out of the forementioned Ballance in Favour of the College Treasury, viz. £. 438. 16. 4, there will remain £ 350. 16. 4. So much, I suppose the College has been enriched, at the Cost of the Scholars, in 3 Years Time; unless perhaps, some of it has been expended in some other Services, besides their paying all the publick Salaries, except Mr. *Dagget's*, and all the contingent Charges, and £ 88 to Mr. *Dagget's* Use. * ----A fine Income! Our College, most certainly, was never in so flourishing and prosperous a State, as it is at present, under the admirable Management of the worthy President.

I believe Sir, by this Time your Faith fails you, and that you greatly suspect me of exaggerating Matters. But if the Assembly thinks proper to enquire into these Things, with *careful sifting*, I presume they will find Things as I have represented them.

The Taxes on the Scholars, have been greatly increased, since the Government withheld their £. 100 Annuity; if the President said true, when he told the Assembly, that the College could not support her then present Officers, without that Aid, but by heightening the Taxes on the Students. And I think, as Things have turned out, it had been better for the Government to have continued that Annuity: For the Managers seem determined to have the Money, by *Hook* or by *Crook*. And since the Government

* Some Part of this remaining Balance, has actually been expended in such Services as I can't particularize here. But I guess some of them are such, that if the Scholar's Parents knew these unrevealed Mysteries, they would not be highly satisfied.

ment refused to give it freely, they have found Means to draw more than an Equivalent for it, out of the Pockets of Gentleman that send their Son's to College for Education; without their Consent, or knowing any Thing of the Matter: And have enabled themselves to support a new Officer with a good Salary, to defray all stated and contingent Charges, and to relieve the Sick; and lay up besides, in three Years Time, a very handsome Sum in their Treasury.

Here Sir, permit me to ask you a few Questions. By what Right or Authority do the Governors of our College tax the Parents of the Students, more than is needful to defray the necessary Charges of their Education, and to such a Degree, as thereby annually to enrich the College Treasury; without their Knowledge, or consent, to their being thus charged? Does their Charter, or any other Act of the General Assembly invest them with this Authority? I presume not. Does the Act of Parents, in entering their Sons into College, give them any such Power over their Purfes, as that they may take Money from them under the Pretence of paying for their Son's Tuition, or of any other incident Charge, and apply it to the Increase of the Riches of the College? You will hardly answer in the Affirmative. And if this their Authority is not derived from the Government, nor from the Consent, or any Act of the Parents of the Pupils; I can't conceive how they came by it; except it naturally results out of the *superior Nature* of that Society to all other ecclesiastical Societies, as it is a *Society of Ministers*. Besides, if they have a Right to enrich the College, by Taxes on the Scholars, £. 10 per Annum, why not a £. 100, or any Sum that they please, provided the Scholar's Parents are able to pay it? And if they may justly tax them, in the Compass of three Years, £. 126. 18. 0, for their Son's Tuition, more

than their Instructors receive for that Service, (which has in Fact been done, as you see by the preceding Account) and lay it up to enrich the Society, or expend it in any other Services, for the Benefit of the Society or her Governors, without their Knowledge or Consent; why may they not as justly tax them £. 500 in the same Way, if they judge it for the Benefit of the College? These Questions Sir, are very interesting and important, and highly deserve your serious Consideration.

Suffer me now Sir, to turn your Eye back on the Article of Fines, By the above Account you see, that in three Years Time, £.172. 16. 1, Lawful Money, was collected from the Scholars, by *Fines*. This is indeed a heavy Tax on the Sins of the Children, and but illy agrees with the Character that has been given us of the College, as greatly reformed in their Morals, since their being seperated to Mr. *Dagget's* Ministry. I presume there has not been more Money paid into all the County Treasuries in the Colony, during the same Time, for the Transgressions of all the penal Laws of the Government, by all his Majesty's Subjects. Such an exorbitant Collection by Fines, tempts one to suspect, that they have got together a most disorderly Set of young Fellows, training up for the Service of the Churches; or that they are governed and corrected chiefly by pecuniary Punishments, that almost all Sins in that Society are purged and attoned for by Money. Certainly Sir, they here make a great Profit by the Sins of the People; and the Wickedness of the Students, is greatly to the Edification of the Church. I can't but think Sir, that dealing so very liberally in Fines, is a very great and dangerous Corruption in the Government of our College. If their Laws warrant it, I think they are very illy contrived. If the Fines are in great Part arbitrary and illegal, as many

many of the Students have often complained that they are ; it is *very Wickedness*.----It appears to me, that in the Government of such a Society as our College is, pecuniary Punishments, ought to be very sparingly used, or rather not at all. And that for these Reasons,

1st. These Punishments don't fall on the Persons of the Offenders (the Students being almost all of them Minors) but on their Parents ; who, for the most Part, have enough to do to scrabble thro' the other necessary Charges of their Son's Education. And when they are labouring hard at home, and eating the Bread of Carefulness with their Families, in Order to furnish their several Quotas towards the Payment of the President's and Tutors Salaries, and other contingent Charges of the College ; is it not cruelly hard ; that for every little Transgression of their Sons, they should be mulcted, and their Money taken from them by Way of Atonement for their Offences ? How much more humane and kind would it be in their Instructors and Governors, instead of thus exacting Money for Sin ; to endeavour to convince and reclaim the Children, by Reason, Counsel, and paternal Admonition and Reproof ; and then pardon their Faults. Their Parents might surely expect this of them, since they are maintain'd at *their Expence*. And this, I should think, would much better become the Government of a *religious Society*, in the Hands of our Reverend *Fathers* ; than to be perpetually exacting Money of their Parents, for the Offences of the Children of their Charge.

2dly. This Practice of punishing by Fines, takes Place chiefly where there is the least Prospect of working a Reformation. The Thoughtless and Extravagant, are by far the most frequent Offenders against the good Laws of the College. And taking their Father's Money from them, on Account
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of their Transgressions, has certainly no very powerful Tendency to awaken them to wise and serious Reflections, (I believe it much more frequently awakens Resentment against their Governors) nor is it wisely adapted to reform their Manners, and prevent their offending for the future. For being uncaredful of their Money, they spend prodigally themselves; and therefore will not much lay it to Heart, if their Frolicks, and wild Sallies of Disorder are made to cost them a little more, by way of Fine. And this Consideration, I should think, ought to induce their Governors to contrive some other Method of punishing their Disorders, than by Fines; if it was only out of Compassion to their Parents; who have enough to do, to support their excessive Expences, without being loaded down with Fines.

3dly. This Way of punishing the Children of the College, has but little Tendency, at best, to better their Hearts, and reform their Manners; and as it is too often managed, tends to corrupt their Morals. Pecuniary Punishments tend to reform them, only as they touch their Shame, their Covetousness, or their Necessity. If they are frequently used, for every little Offence, they cease to be dishonourable in their Eyes. This, if I am rightly informed, is very much the Case at present. Our Scholars no longer esteem it a Reproach to be fined. And few of them, at the Age in which they pass through College, are much govern'd by the Love of Money; and so will not be mightily restrained from offending, merely by the Fear of losing a little Money. But if they were, this Method of correcting their Faults, is only casting out one Devil by the Help of another, and restraining one Vice by the Means of another; which but illy answers the Purpose of mending the Heart.-- If indeed any of the Scholars are poor, and straitened for Money to furnish Necessaries, as some perhaps
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are ; the Fear of a Fine will, in this Case, have a very considerable Influence in restraining from Transgression. But this Consideration should render their Governors *extremely* slow in inflicting this Sort of Punishment on them ; purely out of Compassion to their Poverty ; and it certainly will, if they have the Spirit of Fathers to the Children of their Charge. And if they have not this Spirit, they are very unworthy of their Trust.

Moreover, pecuniary Punishments, if they greatly abound, have a very unhappy Tendency to corrupt the Morals of the Scholars. If they are fined frequently, for every light Offence, and often without Measure or Mercy ; and when they apply to their Governors to have their Fines taken off, offering reasonable Pleas in their Justification, in some Cases, wherein their Actions have been misapprehended at first ; or proper Submission and Testimonies of Repentance, in others, wherein they have been really Blame-worthy ; if they rarely meet with Success ; these Things powerfully tend to lead them to suspect, that they are not fined so much from any just Hatred their Governors bear to their Crimes, and a Desire of their Good ; as from a covetous lusting after their Money, or from Ill-will to their Persons. And when once they are thrown into this Way of thinking of their Governors, how groundless soever their Jealousies may be, they will soon come, heartily to despise and hate them. And for ever after this, all their pious Instructions and Counsels, are lost upon them.---And besides, their Resentments for the hard Measures which they suppose has been meted out to them, and the Disaffection which naturally rises out of them, to the Persons of their Governors, will very probably produce new Transgressions, and dispose them to condemn their Authority, and run headlong into Tumults

mults and Insurrections.---If I have not been greatly misinformed, this has been in a sorrowful Degree, the Temper of our Scholars, of late Years. And I leave it with you to consider, whether £. 172-16-1 L. Money could have been raised on them, by Fines, in the Space of three Years; without producing such Effects. If instead of this Practice of fining on every Occasion, the Governors of the Students, when they commit Offences against the Laws, would address themselves to their Reason, Conscience, and natural Sense of Honour and Shame; exhort, admonish and reprove them, with a wise Mixture of Authority and Love, and fatherly Tenderness and Compassion; there can be no Doubt, but their Government would be abundantly more revered, and honour'd, their Laws better observed, and the Scholars much more disposed to Virtue, and all due Obedience. The late President *Burr*, as I have been credibly informed, made very little, and cautious Use of Fines, in the Government of his College. But on Occasion of Transgressions, took the more humane and Gospel Methods of private, and some Times, as the Case required, publick Admonition, Exhortation and Reproof; prudently uniting Authority with the persuasive Influence of Reason and Love, and a flowing Compassion for the Persons of the Offenders. And in this Method he happily succeeded; seldom having Occasion to proceed to Extremities, and often reaping the joyful Fruits of an ingenuous Shame and Repentance, in Those that had offended.----But this Way of chastizing Offenders by pecuniary Punishments, is so much the Spirit of our College Laws, and Genius of the present Government; and so very considerable a Revenue arises therefrom, to the College Treasury; that I suspect it will be no very easy Matter to reform this Corruption.

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Suffer me next Sir, to turn your Thoughts on the Affair of the Professor's, or College Pastor's Support. We are confidently told from Time to Time, that he is not supported at the Expence of the Students. But this is a mere Rattle, such as Nurses use to divert the Thoughts of little Children, and stop their crying. The plain Truth is this, Col. *Livingston's*, and some other private Donations, were given purposely for a Professor's Support. So far as the Incomes of these go towards his Support therefore, the Scholars are not the more burdened with Taxes on his Account. But these furnish but a small Part of his Salary.---The College Lands given by the Government, were not appropriated by the Donors to the Maintenance of a Professor, or College Pastor; but given generally, to the Use of the College, with a generous and kind Design, to lessen the Expence of a College Education, to all in general that should attend their Sons there; and to render it more easily attainable by Persons of moderate Circumstances, and so to encourage Learning. The Rents of these Lands therefore, ought to be applied to lessen the Taxes on the Scholars, as far as they will go. And suppose the annual Rents to amount to £. 60 Sterling. This, if the College had no Professor or Pastor to maintain, would naturally be applied towards the Payment of the President's and Tutor's Salaries. And so the Scholars would be eased of a £. 60 Tax. But as the Governors have introduced a Professor, and appropriated those Rents to his Support; the Scholars are necessarily taxed £. 60 more, to make good the other Salaries, than they would be, if they had no Professor. So much therefore, as the College Lands which are appropriated to the *Professor's* Support, rent for annually, so much are the Scholars taxed *per Annum* on his Account, in all reasonable Construction. And all the Compensation they have
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for it, is the superior Advantage that they enjoy in their Education, from his Administrations, beyond what they might have if that Office was vacant. And whether the Advantage balances the Charge, is greatly questioned by Many. Undoubtedly they might be as well, or better instructed on the Sabbath, in the Parish-Church, as they are in the separate Meeting in the College-Hall. 'Tis true, the Governors of the College have Power, by Charter to appoint a Professor; and that they themselves are the proper Judges, when such an Officer is needful. But then this gives them no Right, under Pretence of establishing a Professor of Divinity, to introduce a College-Pastor; to turn Schools into Churches, and force the College into a Separation from the Church, in which she ought to communicate in the Ordinances of publick Worship. And besides, Gentlemen ought to be so honest and above-board, as to acknowledge the Truth; and that the *Professor's* or *Pastor's* Salary, is raised almost wholly at the Expence of the Scholars. And since Gentlemen who send their Sons to College, are obliged to maintain their Minister, in so great a Measure; they ought to let them know it, and have the Honour of it; and not fill them with a vain Conceit, that their Sons enjoy the Benefit of their Professor's and Pastor's Labours, gratis.

Will you give me Leave Sir, in the next Place to remark a few Things to you, relating to the Laws of the College, the Genius and Spirit of its Constitution of Government, and some of the late Administrations of it?

And *first*, I observe that the College Laws very much abound with pecuniary Sanctions; a great deal too much, I should think, for the Health of such a Society; in which, almost all the Governed are Minors. Of this, the prodigious Sum, collected of them by Fines, the last three Years, may serve as Evidence;

dence; unless it be granted that a great Part of it was raised by illegal Exactions: A larger Sum than some of our Clergy have received from their People by Way of Salary, during the same Time. But I have said so much of this Matter above, that I need not enlarge here.---Only one Thing I must remark, viz. That by the Laws of the College, the Scholars have no Liberty of Appeal from the Judgment of the President and Tutors, to the Fellows, in Case of their suffering pecuniary Punishments, how illegally soever they are punished; but are left in their Hands without Remedy. And even when some of the Fellows, at a Corporation Meeting, a little surprised at the greatness of the Sum gathered by Fines, asked what Crimes the Scholars had committed, that the Fines amounted to so much; they could not be informed; only, that they were fined so much *by the President and Tutors of Yale-College.*

Secondly, I remark that the Constitution and Genius of the College Government, is in a great Degree sovereign. Indeed a Government over Minors must of Necessity be considerably so; but this seems to be more so than is prudent or safe. By the Laws of the College, (see Tit. iv. Sect. 21.) the President himself, has a Power in some Cases, of making and establishing Laws *at Discretion.* Such a Delegation of the Legislative Authority, by a subordinate, limited Legislative Body, to a single Person, and to the Person too, who exercises the principal Executive Authority in the Community; is a monstrous Absurdity in Politicks, and the surest Foundation in the World, for a tyrannical Administration. No Government that has *any Sense of Liberty, any Dread of Tyranny*, will ever trust the legislative and executive Authority in the same Hands. And besides, this Delegation of a legislative Power by the Corporation to the President, is a *perfect Nullity*; and all
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the Laws that he makes by Virtue of it, are without Force, *mere arbitrary and lawless Orders*. For tho' it be true, that the Corporation is invested with a *legislative Authority* over the Students, by the Government; yet they are not authorized to delegate any Part of this Power to the President, or any other Man.

Again, Tit. xi. Sect. 2. The executive Power of this College, is principally in the Hands of the President; who by his Authority, may command, govern and direct the College, and all the Affairs that respect it; also all the Students, as well Graduates as Undergraduates, according to the Laws, Rules, and Statutes established by the President and Fellows; and where they are wanting, by the ancient and written Customs of the College; and where these are wanting, according to his own Judgment and Will, (*pro Judio et Arbitrio*) That is, He is be to a Law to himself; and to govern, command and direct, in such Cases, without Law, as seems Good in his own Eyes. *Sic Volo, sic Jubeo*, So I will, so I command and ordain. This sovereign, governing Power may very easily be abused, in the Hands of a self-willed, arbitrary Man.

Thirdly, I shall next remark some late Instances, wherein the Exercise of the President's Authority has been carried to a great Excess, and his Prerogatives strained very far. He has degraded, and even expelled some of the Students, for Crimes, to which only a pecuniary Punishment is due, by the College Laws; as may be instanced in the Case of *Ashby, Gardiner, and Lambert*.

As Gaming with Cards is of pernicious Tendency, 'tis strictly prohibited by the College Laws. And in Case any Student transgresses in this Matter, he is made liable, by the Law, for the first Offence, to suffer a Fine of 2s. and 6d. for the second, to be fined 5s. and to be degraded, and for the third, to be expelled. Now there were three Students of the Freshman's Class, who were guilty of playing Cards, the last Year; though it was their first Offence of
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that Kind, yet the good President in the Plenitude of his Power, fined two of them 40 Shillings each, and the third, because he informed against himself, was so far favoured, as to escape with a Fine of 20s. Besides this, he suspended, or as they term it, *rusticated* them about two Months, and ordered them this Year, to sit with the Freshmen six Weeks, and to go with their Hats off in the College-Yard, the same Time, and then to make Confessions in the College-Hall. † Your Charity doubtless suggests to you, that when the good Gentleman's first Heat of Zeal against their Sin was a little tempered down, he remitted to them all that Part of their Fines, which was above the Law. *No such Thing.* The Money was all paid, to a Farthing. And is, I suppose, now in the President's keeping, for the Use of the College; who is Cash-keeper for the College, without sustaining the Office of Treasurer. A goodly Sum this, which their Crime was valued at, £. 5-0-0 L. M. for that, for which the Law demanded but 7s. and 6d. for the first Offence. *O Tempora ! O Mores !*

And can you wonder Sir, after all these Things, that there has been of late Years, such loud Murmuring and Complaints of the Scholars against the College Government, spread abroad by them, into all Parts of the Colony; so frequent Tumults and Insurrections, and so great Complaints by their Governors, of their untoward, and ungovernable Tempers? *Oppression will make a wise Man mad*, how much more, a Company of *unwise* and *giddy Youth*? I do not speak this by Way of justifying their contemptuous

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† I should have thought, if the President did not look upon himself restricted by the Laws of the College, in punishing these Offenders, he would have had the Modesty, not to have inflicted on the Children of his charge, a Sum more than double what the Laws of the Government inflicts on the most hardened Offender for the same Crime.

temptuous and rebellious Behaviour towards the Authority of the College. They have doubtless been greatly to blame. For those that are under Tutors and Governors, should be in *due* Subjection, not only to the Good and Gentle, but also to the *Froward*. Fathers also, should be careful not to provoke their Children to Wrath, lest they be discouraged, and Masters forbear threatening.

You well know Sir, that the General Assembly, has placed our lower Schools, under the Care and Inspection of the Select-men, and civil Authority of the several Towns, and made them the Visitors; and have prudently reserved to themselves, the Power of inspecting and visiting the College; I don't desire a Hair of the Heads, of any of the worthy Gentlemen, who have been concerned in the late Administration of the Affairs of the College, should fall to the Ground; but I believe Sir, you think some of these Things above-mentioned, deserve to be seriously enquired into, by the General Assembly; who alone have a Right to visit and correct what they find needs Amendment. And I should heartily rejoice for the College's Sake, and for the Government's Sake, to see those Corruptions, which have unhappily crept into the Government of that School, remov'd; and a Spirit of Equity and Liberty, and of Moderation in the Exercise of the Power of the Rod and the Purse, prevail, and govern there again, as in former Days; for I am fully persuaded, that if the present Disorders, in these Things are not reformed, but suffered to continue and increase (for it is the Nature of all Corruptions in Government, to wax worse and worse, 'till proper Remedies are apply'd) that in the End, they will render our College, once our Glory and Joy, perfectly *infamous* and contemptible in the Eyes of all Mankind; and thereby Gentlemen be quite discouraged from sending their Sons there for Education.

tion. Besides, training up Youth that are designed for public Services, under a covetous and arbitrary Government, has too dangerous an Influence on their Morals to be willingly suffered ; and tends to give them an unhappy Bent to Covetousness and Tyranny, Qualifications but illy suited to the Office of Clergymen or Magistrates.

Thus Sir, I have completed what I at first propos'd, and leave you to make your own Reflections thereon, and such Improvement thereof, as you shall think proper : Should you suffer the same to see the Light, I expect nothing short of being stigmatized by the President, as an *Arminian*, † *Taylorist*, a Man

†As there has in fact, been no attempt made in these late times, nor any schemes formed by any party among us, to undermine the *Calvinistick* constitution of our college, or churches ; 'tis a *master-piece of ministerial policy* to alarm the colony, with an apprehension, that our calvinistick faith is in imminent danger, from a powerful party, combined together for its destruction ; and fill us with jealousies of one another, as has been done of late years ; and thereby to prepare us to approve and support those extraordinary measures that have been taken, and are carrying on, by our *Church Politicians*, under a *pretence* of supporting *Calvinism*, and bearing down those whom they would represent as *Arminians* ; and under the cover of this, to aggrandize their own power, and give themselves due weight in all our affairs, both civil and religious ; to increase their popular influence, and bring the people to serve their ambitious views, under a notion of *defending their faith* ; and so by this means exercising a sort of dominion over the body of the clergy, and managing their influence among the people at their pleasure ; and by a secret unperceived power, direct and govern the votes of the freemen, and keep the magistrates in due awe and dependence, and so cause the *Earth* to help the *Woman*, and the State, to serve the Church, and bow down at her feet : How glorious is such influence to an ambitious mind ! Indeed I esteem our Calvinistick constitution, to be at present in imminent danger, not so much from its open enemies, as from those that profess to be its greatest friends ; for they take such measures to compass their religious and political designs, and so overact the matter, that their zeal for orthodoxy, thirst of power, love of money, hatred of error, and ill will to the persons of those that stand in their way, blended together, I suspect, by and by cannot fail to cause a general alarm,

of no Religion ; or what is not much better, that *I am* of the *New-Scheme of Religion*, of which he has given us a Specimen, in his *Vindication of the Doctrines of the New-England Churches* ; but such invidious, and unjust

alarm, and raise jealousies of them in the minds of people ; and when they once perceive, that zeal for orthodoxy, has been made the instrument of serving ambitious and covetous designs ; and that the great patrons, and most zealous supporters of orthodoxy, very well understand the art of making *gain by godliness*, and are as well practiced in the wisdom of this world, as the best *Statesman* of them all ; they will be greatly disgusted, and in imminent danger of taking up a dislike to Calvinism itself, when they see it made a tool in the hands of its greatest patrons ; (for this reason, if I wished the ruin of our constitution, I should by no means oppose their measures, as yet) and then, if those who are now stigmatized with the name of *Arminians*, don't step in to save the sinking cause of truth and liberty ; we may reasonably expect to see new schemes of divinity formed in earnest.

Doth not the late affair at *Wallingford*, afford convincing proof of an undue thirst of power and dominion, prevailing in these times ? Was it not something singular and assuming, and expressive of such a temper, in the *Great Man*, that undertook in a letter to one of the members of the council there, to direct the said council, as to what judgment it was proper for them to make up, tho' he was at a distance, and had not the opportunity to hear the pleas of the parties ? And was it not something strange, that any members of the court, should insist upon this letter's being read in the council ? And doth not the same temper evidently appear in the council themselves ? who when the church by their committee, desired them when convened at *Wallingford*, to send some of their members as *Peace-makers*, to conciliate matters ; and when Mr. *Dana*, offered to make a publick vindication of himself, in the audience of the revd. elders and messengers, and of all christians who desired to attend, with respect to the complaint made against him, with regard to his soundness in the faith of the gospel ; but as the church and Mr. *Dana* had denied the jurisdiction of the consociation, they would by no means be prevailed upon, to officiate as peace makers among them ; neither would they permit Mr. *Dana* to appear before them, to give them satisfaction as to his orthodoxy, nor even read the confession of his faith, which he sent in to them,-----no, by no means, unless the church and Mr. *Dana* acknowledged them, as an *authoritative ecclesiastical council* : They would not divest themselves of their *Pontificalia*, nor endeavour to promote peace among them : Are these the

unjust Reflections, by being thrown out so freely, and frequently ; have in some Measure lost their *intended Efficacy* on the more thinking Part of Mankind, and I can assure you, they will by no Means ruffle or discompose my Mind : I may not add, but only that I am,

Dear SIR,

Your sincere Friend,

and most obliged, humble Servant,

A Lover of Truth and his Country.

the *ambassadors* of the *PRINCE of PEACE* ? Allowing the church were under a mistake, in denying the jurisdiction of that consociation, I think it must be allowed a very pardonable error ; as it was the *first consociation* that ever presumed, to interpose in the ordination of a candidate, regularly called and chosen by a society : ---It appears to me, they would better have answered their character, in meekness to have recovered those who oppose themselves, and not so freely to have dealt out their *ANATHEMAS*, to cut off a whole church from the communion of the saints.

345 Riegley D.D.

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Advertisement, To the Reader.

THE Author of the foregoing Letter, being neither desirous of Applause from his Friends, nor anxiously concerned to avoid the Resentment of his Enemies, yet thought it not expedient to affix his Name thereto; being only desirous, that the Importance and Truth of Facts, might influence the Publick; his main concern being, to relate Facts truly, in which he thinks he has been faithful: But if any Person concerned, shall think himself injured, and would seek Redress, his Name and Place of Abode, are left with the Printer.

THE PUBLISHER.